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Southam Rural District

Warwick



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1954,

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts

Leamington Spa

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1956

38, HOLLY WALK,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

17th December, 1955.

To the Southam Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my fifth annual report, which is on the health of the district for the year 1954. Once more the vital statistics show a birth rate above and a death rate below the national average and there have been no epidemics.

The shortage of water continued though more progress was made for your comprehensive schemes. It has not yet been possible to commence new building again or pass plans for the improvement of houses which are below standard. This means that new building will have been interrupted for a period of some two years, during which subsidised house building programmes of many other authorities have been expanding. This council may therefore find itself in a most unfortunate position if, when it comes to overtake the unavoidable arrears, the terms of financial aid are less favourable. This makes it specially important to examine the housing conditions of the area so as to see what future requirements will be for the replacement of worn-out and unfit houses.

The survey reported upon last year, showed that the housing standards within your district were not good and these findings received some press publicity. One of the troubles of such a survey is that it must extend over a period of time during which the state of some of the buildings may alter after their inspection. As part of the 1951 Census householders were invited to return certain data regarding the amenities of the house which they occupy and the published data were available for rural Warwickshire, early in 1954. While the accuracy of such a census can easily be assailed on several grounds, nevertheless it may be assumed that any inherent errors apply generally so that the figures are valid for comparison of one rural district with another.

When the comparison is made the results are more than disquieting because they show clearly that as regards the five household arrangements listed the Southam Rural District is in worse case than all other rural Districts in the administrative County.

This was the position in 1951 and since then, while some Councils have pressed ahead with housing plans, this District has experienced years of water shortage causing wholesale deferment of plans and virtual suspension of any constructive plans to clear away unfit or slum houses.

Study of Table 14 of the 1951 Census publication (County Report—Warwickshire) throws a light on some of the foregoing statements. Excluding households in shared dwellings this district had the highest percentage of houses sharing or lacking (a) piped water, (b) a cooking stove and (c) a kitchen sink. A much higher proportion of houses in Southam Rural District exists without exclusive use of a water closet and fixed bath than in any other rural district in Warwickshire.

The unfit dwellings include many condemned in pre-war clearance areas but untouched and occupied even at the very moment when the Council has been asked to formulate a five-year plan of new slum clearance.

There has been a growth of 260 in the population of your area. The birth rate is lower and the death rate higher but both compare well with national levels. As the natural increase (i.e. excess of live births over deaths) was only 82, then the bulk of this growth has arisen by arrival of new residents in your area.

Another noteworthy point is the further reduction in the occupancy of the Gaydon Squatters' Camp. One looks forward with anticipation—as must above all the majority of the tenants there—to the day when all these families can be rehoused within the framework of normal community life.

In conclusion it is a pleasure to record my thanks once again to the members of the Council for their kindness at all times and also to record gratefully the good relationship and spirit of help and co-operation which I have met with at the hands of all your officers, and Mr. Whitehead, Chief Sanitary Inspector, in particular.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

D. LIVINGSTONE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Southam Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1954	...	...	13,310
Area	...	...	62,527 acres
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	16.7
" " " (Corrected)	...	...	18.4
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	17.6
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	10.6
" " " (Corrected)	...	...	10.9
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; font-size: 3em; line-height: 1;">}</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> From Scpsis ... — From other causses ... — </div>		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	49.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			51.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

The estimated population has increased by 260 during 1954.

The birth rate is more favourable than that for the whole country (*i.e.* 15.2) ; the death rate is also more favourable, (the E. and W. rate = 11.3). Infant mortality rates are again higher this year than last but are calculated from only 11 deaths of which 7 took place in the first four weeks of life. The E. and W. rate for infant deaths was 25.5.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1. (a) *Public Health Officers.*

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

S. C. WHITEHEAD, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

G. S. H. PEATY, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

P. F. BROOKS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

2. (a) *Laboratory, Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry during 1954.

Many examinations are of course carried out in hospital laboratories in connection with the work of the Chest Clinics.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1.—*Water Supply.*

Northern Area Comprehensive Water Scheme.—The Public Inquiry into the Council's proposals was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 28th January, 1954, the Inspector appointed by the Minister being A. K. Pollock, Esq., M.I.C.E. In a letter dated 4th March, 1954, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved in principle the Council's own proposals subject to certain conditions and advised the Council to proceed with the preparation of contract documents. The Minister was asked to approve 1st January, 1955 as a starting date.

Subject to conditions the Leamington Spa Corporation offered a supply to the Council during the period of construction of their reservoir; such a supply to be made available so soon as the link main from Leamington to Southam was constructed.

The Public Inquiry into the proposals of the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa, was held on 5th March, 1954, when this Council was represented. In a letter dated 12th May, 1954, to the Borough the Minister approved in principle their proposed scheme based on abstraction from the River Leam.

Southern Area Comprehensive Scheme.—The successful tender was from Messrs. Costelloe & Kemple of Cheltenham and the official starting date was 14th June, 1954. By the end of 1954 10 miles of mains were laid and a start was made on the excavations for the Avon Dasset Reservoir.

Mr. C. F. Head was appointed as Resident Engineer.

The Council was advised by the Shipston Rural District Council that water should be available by January, 1956 subject to Tysoe pumping station being in operation and the main-laying contract being completed within the contract period.

Ratley.—Owing to considerable delays in completing the formalities of the contract, the contractor was advised that the acceptance of his tender was withdrawn and that the work was to be undertaken as an extension of the Southern Area Comprehensive scheme.

GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF WATER SUPPLY.

1. Whether the supply has been satisfactory—

(a) in quality—Yes. The Council's supplies have been satisfactory.

(b) in quantity—serious shortage prevailed in the early part of the year.

2. Where there is a piped supply, regular samples are taken for bacteriological examination.

3. The water from Holywell at Southam is passed through a pressure sand filter and chlorinated.

4. The following table shows the proportion of dwelling houses and population supplied with water from public mains.

Parish.	Total No. of Houses.	Total No. of Popula- tion.	Supply direct to		Supply by stand pipe to	
			(a) Houses.	(b) Popula- tion.	(a) Houses.	(b) Popula- tion.
Avon Dassett (Private Com- pany).	59	210	12	42	42	150
Bishops Itch- ington	361	1090	228	684	88	270
Burton Dassett	160	473	108	322	33	96
Fenny Compton (Private Com- pany)	175	591	87	291	78	260
Gaydon	105	330	93	281	7	22
Harbury ...	436	1458	238	793	127	421
Ladbroke	60	194	57	182	1	3
Lighthorne	96	280	40	120	2	6
Long Itchington	404	1358	155	522	130	442
Lower Shuck- burgh ...	23	70	17	50	—	—
Napton	250	905	137	490	78	286
Priors Hardwick	59	169	43	124	12	33
Priors Marston	157	458	133	395	14	40
Radway	79	212	50	135	23	65
Southam	525	2030	320	1237	196	750
Stockton	288	989	204	698	37	130
Ufton	64	155	28	84	—	—
Upper Rad- bourne	4	9	4	9	—	—
Warmington	87	307	1	3	41	143

By the end of 1954 only 44 huts were in use at the Gaydon Squatters' Camp so as to house some 70 families. All the huts

have internal water fittings although the pressure in the mains at this elevated point has often not been enough to afford a regular supply.

D. HOUSING.

1. The following table sets out particulars of the action taken in respect of unfit houses during the year 1954 :—

(1)	Number of Houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation ...	53
(2)	Number of houses the defects of which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	29
(3)	Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to—	
	(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of Works	1
	(b) the making of demolition or Closing Orders	3
(4)	Number of notices served requiring the execution of Works	1
(5)	Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	1
(6)	Number of demolition or closing orders made	7
(7)	Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Sub-section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	19
(8)	Number of houses demolished	5

2. *Overcrowding*.—This does not now seem to be serious in anypart of the district, and no action under Part IV of the Housing Act, 1936 has been found necessary.

3. The following table shows the Housing Programme and the progress up to December, 1954.

4.—*Fitness of Houses*.—As the water shortage has not yet been relieved, the policy of the Council has been to suspend the building of new Council houses and to postpone action under Section 11, 12 and 25 of the 1936 Housing Act for Demolition, Closure and Clearance wherever possible. However the general condition of many houses is so poor that some have had to be dealt with as unfit for human habitation. The Housing Rents and Repairs Act, 1954, requires the Council to make a general survey of the unfit houses in their area and make a return to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by the end of August, 1955, which will show in approximate figures :—

- (a) The total number of unfit houses in the Area ;
- (b) The Council's estimate of the time needed to deal with all the unfit houses ;
- (c) The Council's proposals, by way of clearance or demolition, for action in the first five years ;
- (d) an outline of action proposed in subsequent years.

The above Act lays down for the first time a statutory standard of fitness which will supersede local standards and be the future yardstick for the purpose of dealing with unfit dwellings under the Housing Acts. It thus supersedes the printed "Standard of Fitness for Working Class Houses" issued on 1st February, 1945 by the Warwickshire Rural Housing Advisory Committee and, on examination, is shown to be an absolute minimum standard falling very far short even of the modest provisions of the Warwickshire document. The Act also confers certain additional powers on local authorities both to acquire or patch unfit property by way of "deferred demolition" and to allow licences to reoccupy old property condemned before the operative date of the new Act.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

This Act came into force on August 30th and enables landlords whose property is in good condition to claim a repairs increase on the rent. Where the condition of the house is disputed by the tenant, on receiving the notice of repairs increase from his landlord, he can apply to the local authority for a so-called "certificate of disrepair."

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Harbury, Bishops Itchington and Napton.

Work continued on these schemes.

The disposal works at Deppers Bridge and Napton were put into operation.

Long Itchington.—The Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved the scheme in principle, subject to the omission of the Model Village and deferment of the works until nearer the time when an improved water supply would be available. Having regard to the housing plans for this village and the progress with the Northern Area Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme, the Minister was urged to permit progress with the scheme or at least, that part needed to serve the new Council house estate.

Burton Dassett.—The scheme was approved in principle by the Ministry which in May, 1954 gave permission for the Council to proceed with the preparation of contract documents. Here again there had been stressed the need and urgency in view of the Council's proposed new housing estate.

Gaydon.—In the case of this scheme the Minister did not approve in principle ; it was considered not to be justified at present. The Minister did, however, undertake to reconsider the scheme when the augmentation of the water supply was nearer and should conditions then have worsened.

Fenny Compton.—The date of the Public Inquiry was awaited.

Priors Marston.—No public inquiry was held, but the Council advertised their proposals ; no objections were received and there is now awaited the informal visit of inspection of the Ministry Inspector.

Lighthorne.—There were objections to the proposed site of a sewage works and further proposals had to be prepared and submitted to the Ministry.

Southam.—The work on the installation of the flow recording apparatus was completed. The Council's consulting engineers (Bateman & Partners) submitted a preliminary report on the improvement of the works ; it was agreed that, subject to conditions, the proposed 80 Council houses could be connected.

Stockton.—The proposed scheme was approved by the Ministry in principle but work was to be deferred to a time nearer the operation of the Council's Northern Area Comprehensive Water Scheme.

The Council continued to press for this scheme on grounds of public health, to abate pollution of the water course and to serve the proposed new housing estate. In this connection the Medical Officer of Health and the Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector prepared special survey reports which were submitted to the Ministry in support of the Council's application.

Sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for Southern parishes, viz. :—

RADWAY, RATLEY, SHOTTESWELL, WARMINGTON,
AVON DASSETT, WORMLEIGHTON, FARNBOROUGH.

The Council's consulting engineers, Messrs. Herbert Bateman & Partners completed their preliminary proposals

for these parishes ; the Council accepted them and details are to be prepared for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

With regard to food hygiene there has been again some improvement and it is hoped that still more will be found when more adequate water and drainage schemes operate in your area. Now that so many foods are branded, inspected and packed for distribution on a nation-wide basis, retailers operate on standard terms. There is therefore little excuse nowadays for the reluctance, mentioned in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report, to bring poor premises up to a proper standard. If the rural trader expects to pocket the same margin of profit as does the town shopkeeper, he can have little ground for complaint if this Council expects both his premises and methods to conform to reasonable and generally accepted standards. Substandard conditions, which may have been acceptable, and indeed inevitable, when living in the country districts was cheap and rewards were small, are out of place today.

Meanwhile one need not await the coming of costly water and sewage schemes to make an end of bad practices such as the delivery of meat or bread in dirty baskets or the dispatch of men on long delivery rounds handling fish and meat without any means of washing hands that become soiled during the work.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

At the end of July the Ministry of Food ceased to have control of the slaughtering and marketing of meat. Private slaughterhouse licences could again be granted in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as subsequently amended by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.

As the date of decontrol approached, several inquiries were made by butchers as to the possibility of the granting of slaughterhouse licences under the provision of Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. In no case did it appear to the Council that the premises were or could be made fit in accordance with reasonable hygienic standards. The Council's refusal was the subject of an appeal by one retail butcher but the hearing before the local bench ended in a decision for the Council. An appeal was then entered to the Appeals Committee of Quarter Sessions by the owner and, on a point of law,

he obtained a reversal of the magistrates' judgement. The higher court directed that the Council should issue a licence.

Accordingly a temporary licence was issued of which the renewal was dependent upon the performance by the owner of substantial works of improvement. The slaughterhouse has since been in regular use, but is limited in the main to killings for one retail shop, for which amount of traffic it suffices.

Following this successful appeal, another previous application was re-submitted. The owners received the list of works required by the Council and no more has been heard of the proposals.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1947.

		Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Poliomyelitis.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1947	...	—	3	12	1	3	—	—
1948	...	—	—	7	—	3	—	—
1949	...	—	—	4	—	1	—	—
1950	...	—	1	6	—	3	—	—
1951	...	—	1	2	—	2	—	—
1952	...	—	—	3	—	3	1	—
1953	...	—	—	3	—	7	3	—
1954	...	—	—	18	—	8	—	1

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1954.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During 1954 37 schoolchildren were immunised and also 204 under 5 years of age, giving a total of 241.

In addition 297 children received “ Booster ” doses.

This shows an improvement compared with last year's work.

There was no special prevalence of any infectious disease during the year, but scarlet fever notifications were above the average. 205 children were immunised at their parents' request against Whooping Cough ; most of these having the combined Diphtheria/Pertussis vaccine.

TUBERCULOSIS.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods.		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	...	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	6	11	3	—	2	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.—The following table shows the notified cases and deaths during the past 20 years :—

		1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Cases	...	16	14	15	19	12	6	14
Deaths	...	7	3	4	6	7	8	3
		1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Cases	...	15	9	14	10	11	18	20
Deaths	...	3	7	4	7	6	6	3
		1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	
Cases	...	19	12	15	12	22	20	
Deaths	...	6	6	1	1	1	2	

18 patients were admitted to Sanatorium during 1954. 17 were discharged.

26 persons received B.C.G. vaccine inoculation during the year. This is given to contacts who react negatively to skin tests and show no signs of previous tuberculosis infection.

The Mass Miniature X-ray Unit visited Southam during the summer and the report of its Medical Director was as follows:—

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Miniature X-ray examinations	...	...	249	157	406
Recalled for large film examination	...	...	15	8	23
Recalled for clinical examination	...	...	8	3	11
Referred to Chest Clinic	...	...	6	1	7
Referred to own doctor	...	...	2	2	4

In addition to the above one woman was referred to the Chest Clinic from the miniature film, the appearances of which indicated active post-primary tuberculosis.

Note.—The above includes patients referred by general practitioners—2 female and 1 male—total 3.

The death rate follows the very low trend of recent years but the number of cases newly notified has remained high. Thus while the number of deaths over a seven year period has fallen to about half the usual figure the number of cases has risen by 30 per cent. thus :—

	1934-1940	1941-1947	1948-1954
New cases notified	101	91	120
Deaths recorded	44	36	20

These figures do not reflect the optimism, expressed in some quarters, that Tuberculosis is on the way out. They show perhaps that the greatly increased expenditure, both on curative and preventive work, in recent years is discovering more cases and bringing them to light in an early stage when improved modern therapeutic weapons have a better chance of mastering the infection. That they have some success may be seen from the facts :

- (a) that fewer deaths now occur per hundred of notified cases, and
- (b) that deaths are now less than before although the population of the whole district has risen.

Nevertheless the decline in deaths is too recent to allow room for complacency.

Whereas Tuberculosis used to be very prevalent among adolescents and young adults, especially females, the table on page 11 shows that a main incidence was among persons in the prime of their working life. The improvement at younger ages may be ascribed to good nutrition and medical care of schoolchildren. Any satisfaction felt on this score must however be tempered by thoughts that perhaps closer examination needs to be made of the working conditions of the adult wage earner and the possibility of the dissemination of infection within crowded workshops or factories or in crowded rush-hour transport.

MILK SUPPLIES.

During 1954 the County Council's sampling officers took 8 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk and 46 samples of Accredited or ungraded milk for biological examination. One positive was obtained from the latter group. In the course of the resulting investigation 16 cows were examined by a Veterinary Surgeon and diagnostic milk sample taken. One cow was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order as a result of these investigations. This record of a considerable volume of useful work is one which can be read with justifiable satisfaction. Undoubtedly there has been a big improvement in the hygiene of milk production but one regrets that some of this benefit is being lost in the complicated chain of modern commercial distribution.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 of this Act provides that where persons—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, and the Medical Officer of Health gives a written certificate in the prescribed form, the local authority may apply to a court, having jurisdiction for an order to remove the person to a suitable and convenient place e.g. hospital. Seven clear days notice must be given of the intended application and it must also be given to the person managing the premises. The order, if granted, may authorize a person's detention for a period not exceeding three months.

Two cases were investigated during the year as the result of reports received. In the first case it was found that the old lady concerned, who was in a chronic hospital waiting list, had deteriorated and been admitted to another distant hospital. The second person also an old lady, had been removed to hospital from an unfit and rat infested cottage which she herself owned. She wished to return home but was quite unfit to care for herself. On two occasions she decided to take her discharge from hospital and arrangements were made to clear the cottage and provide home help but each time her health grew worse and she was obliged to stay in hospital.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Southam Rural District Council.

TO CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the annual report for work done in the Sanitary department during the year ending 31st December, 1954.

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Routine visits of inspection were made to dairies and delivery vans during which 17 samples were taken, 2 of which failed the normal tests. In one case the firm was warned; the other case was due to the failure of the village water supply resulting in non-use of the cooler, and inefficiency of the bottle washing arrangements.

Refuse Collection.

Once again I am pleased to report that it has been possible to preserve this service throughout the year and to offer my acknowledgements and thanks to the men who have carried out the work. The labour position has not improved and it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain the required strength. Whilst appreciating the many difficulties, economic and otherwise, I am sorry to have to report that the number of pail closets is very little decreased. I have often wondered if those charged with the examination of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes have fully weighed this aspect of the matter. It seems very discouraging to have to refer to this, serving as I do, a Council as progressive as any in the pressing forward of schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal.

Slaughterhouses.

Following de-control of meat supplies and the handing back of meat distribution to the trade, 4 applications were received for renewal of slaughterhouse licences. In all cases the premises were considered unfit and the applicants were informed accordingly. In one case an appeal against the Council's refusal to renew the licence was made to the local court of summary jurisdiction and after the giving of evidence and calling of technical witnesses on both sides the magistrates inspected the premises and then announced that the appeal was dismissed. The owner thereupon appealed to Quarter Sessions, the appeal was allowed and the Council directed to issue the licence. All other butchers receive their meat either direct

from wholesalers or arrange for their own cattle to be slaughtered at one of the abattoirs at Banbury, Stratford, Rugby and Coventry.

A number of joint meetings were held of the undermentioned authorities and other interested bodies to consider the suggested need for an abattoir in the Warwick-Leamington area.

City of Coventry ;
 Borough of Royal Leamington Spa ;
 Borough of Warwick ;
 Urban District of Kenilworth ;
 Rural District of Warwick ;
 Rural District of Southam ;
 Butchers' Association ;
 National Farmers' Union ;
 Ministry of Food.

Arising therefrom, the Council resolved that the existing abattoir facilities were adequate so that it was unnecessary to provide an additional abattoir.

There were reported, from abattoirs outside the district, the incidence of *cysticercus bovis* in cattle received from the Council's district. Investigations were carried out at the farms but laboratory reports on specimens submitted gave negative results.

Infectious Disease.

Visits of inspection were made and enquiries carried out on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in the following cases :

Scarlet Fever 14

Disinfection was carried out in the following instances :

Tuberculosis (deaths)	1
(removals)	8

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

During the year 154 inspections were carried out, efforts were continued to obtain universal use of constant hot water supplies to food premises ; the initial reluctance of the occupiers disappeared when once the installations were made. Whilst it is always agreed that food hygiene is essential, it has been found that enthusiasm is often damped by the necessity of spending a few pounds on necessary improvements.

Food Vans.

The 38 inspections showed that food containers such as bread baskets were not always in the cleanest of conditions,

and periodicity of cleaning seemed to vary considerably—it being nobody's particular responsibility. Efforts were made to obtain the installation of hand washing units in meat and fish delivery vans.

Meat and other Foods Inspection.

Following requests to inspect unsound food, the following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Tinned food	67lbs. 8ozs.
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Routine inspection of carcasses was carried out and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption :

Meat, offals, etc.	244lbs.
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Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The usual maintenance work was carried out at disposal works and on sewers.

The sewage disposal units for the various housing estates in villages without proper sewerage and sewage disposal schemes, have taken up a lot of time ; they are troublesome and it is pleasing to report that the Ministry have looked with favour on the completion of parts of village sewerage and sewage disposal schemes to serve new housing estates. With the co-operation of the whole of the cleansing department employees it was possible to carry out the necessary sludge clearance work. It is, however, to be noted that it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep labour for this work and the possibility of mechanising some of the operations at any rate, is being considered.

It will be appreciated that the disposal works require constant attention to ensure effluents to meet the requirements of the River Board Authorities who are very active.

In one village part of the old sewer collapsed and involved the Council in a claim for damages. The necessary work of repair were carried out by this department.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government had been asked for a ruling of the right of connection of farm premises to public sewers ; the reply received was that each case should be treated on its merits.

Water Supply.

The following samples were taken of public and private supplies :—

Bacteriological	...	...	...	99
Chemical	...	...	...	5

The shortage was again felt in this district and in Southam and Long Itchington it was found necessary to restrict the supply ; the restriction having to be continued until well into February.

In view of the proposed erection of a large number of houses by the Air Ministry at Gaydon, an approach was made for a temporary supply, but this was unsuccessful.

An approach was made to the Marlborough Farm Camp from which it appeared possible that temporary relief might be obtained. However, the offer was subsequently withdrawn, principally on account of the operational difficulties which would have occurred in obtaining the delivery of the water at a useful head.

The Council were recommended to adopt Bye Laws under Section 17 Water Act, 1945, for preventing the waste undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied by them. It was sought to exclude the use of galvanised iron and iron pipes for services on account of the action of the subsoil—but the Ministry of Housing and Local Government would not agree to this precaution.

The district metering of the existing mains system was finally completed by this department.

The following table shows the number of additional properties supplied from the Council's mains during the year :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Additional Houses Supplied.</i>	<i>Transferred from stand pipe into houses.</i>
<i>Bishops Itchington ...</i>	44	1
<i>Harbury</i>	2	—
<i>Lighthorne</i>	5	—
<i>Long Itchington ...</i>	6	—
<i>Napton</i>	—	1
<i>Southam</i>	13	—
<i>Stockton</i>	1	—
<i>Burton Dassett ...</i>	—	2
<i>Gaydon</i>	21	—
	92	4

Housing.

During the year arising out of re-housing action by the Council, 24 houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936—5 being the subject of Closing Orders

under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. The remainder are subject to undertakings given by the owners not to relet them until they have been brought up to the required standard.

The absence of a proper supply of water is still a great obstacle to the proper implementation of the provisions of the Housing Acts, as is indeed, the absence of proper sewerage and sewage disposal in many villages, notably the southern part of the district, where advent of the much needed water to such villages will bring great problems in its final disposal. The installation of baths and hot water systems by way of improvement to cottages will cause serious pollution. The only solution, short of a proper scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal, would seem to be the provision of individual septic tanks with proper filters—only thus will it be possible to convert the pail closets to water closets.

During the year the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into operation and provided yet another standard of housing to which regard shall be had. In my view it is surely time that one standard was clearly laid down. At the moment there is the standard required under the Building By-laws for new houses and also the much lower standard required for conversion of non-domestic buildings into houses in both cases there is no requirement to provide a fixed bath or a hot water system; the only reference to food preparation and storage accommodation is that if a pantry is provided it shall be ventilated.

The new standard of the Act of 1954 merely lists a number of matters to which regard shall be had and is, in my view, a weakening of the old standard of the Act of 1936. The only real standard is that provided by the 1949 Housing Act, which, subject to conditions, provides a grant as an inducement to owners to bring houses to a proper standard of amenity, but of course, this is an optional measure so that the higher standard cannot be enforced.

In my experience there is a variation in the application of the various standards which does, I think point to the need for the introduction by the Ministry of a more definite standard of amenity for a house. My attention was recently drawn to a decision, not disapproved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, whereby a house which complied with 11 out of 12 points laid down for obtaining an Improvement Grant, was considered sub-standard and only suitable for demolition.

Rodent Control.

The process of survey of all premises in the district has been continued, a total of 1983 inspections having been made by the Council's Rodent Operator, who has carried out 280 treatments with the consent and co-operation of the occupiers concerned. The Council is able to offer full Rodent Control facilities and that this is becoming appreciated is obvious by the increased number of requests for assistance received. Sewers, refuse tips and disposal works all receive regular attention.

Building Byelaws.

Plans have been received for the following :—

<i>Avon Dassett</i>	...	Private Garage. Connection of drainage. Dutch Barn.
<i>Bishops Itchington</i>	...	Lean-to bathroom. Alterations to bathroom and central heating. Extension to cottage. Conversion—pantry into bathroom. Corrugated iron garage. Concrete garage. House and surgery. Private garage. Temporary permission—Caravan. Septic tank and drainage. New drainage. Private garage. Farm bungalow.
<i>Burton Dassett</i>	...	Dutch barn. Mobile Canteen. New Scullery. Retention of double-decker omnibus as living accommodation. Cowshed and Workshop. Dairy. Lean-to kitchen extension. Renewal of Temporary Permission—Caravan. Playing field. Use of site for stationing Caravan. Site for bungalow.
<i>Chadshunt</i>	...	Renewal of Temporary Permission—Caravan. Dutch Barn. Pair of Agricultural Cottages.

<i>Chesterton</i>	...	Use of site for stationing Caravan. Bathroom, sink, larder, etc.
<i>Farnborough</i>	...	Erection of Bungalow. Renewal of Temporary Permission— double-decker omnibus as living accommodation.
<i>Fenny Compton</i>		Garage and 'bus shelter. New house, garage and pump-house store. Garage. Change of use—Shed to garage and access thereto. Portable concrete garage. Extension of appliance bay. Garage. Site for Agricultural Cottage. Garage and Loose Boxes. Erection of Cottage. Private garage on site of Pig Sty.
<i>Gaydon</i>	... ..	Pair of Agricultural Workers' Cot- tages. Police Station and House. Use of site for stationing caravan. Installation of W.C. and Septic Tank and Connection of Water Supply. Site for stationing caravan. Loose boxes and store. New garage building. Erection of bedroom and living room. Renewal of Temporary Permission— private garage. Renewal of Temporary Permission— Caravan.
<i>Harbury</i>	... ..	Garage. New staircase. Erection of houses and road develop- ment. Permanent cloak room to replace temporary building. Cowshed. Portable garage. Portable wooden garage.

- Sectional garage.
 - New vehicular access.
 - New annexe.
 - Erection of bull serving pen.
 - Garage.
 - New lavatories.
 - Double-decker omnibus as living accommodation.
 - Loose boxes or pig pens.
 - Builder's store and garage.
 - Storage shed.
 - Temporary permission—Scullery and lavatory.
 - Lean-to garage.
 - New shower baths.
 - Drainage and improvements to 5 cottages.
- Ladbroke* ... Temporary permission—retention of caravan.
- Site for caravan.
 - Renewal of temporary permission—workshop.
 - Temporary permission—retention of workers' hostel.
 - Improvements to farm buildings.
 - Temporary permission—extension to workshop.
 - Temporary permission—retention of sectional wooden bungalow.
 - Temporary permission—retention of caravan.
 - Erection of cattle compound.
 - Renewal of temporary permission—caravan.
 - Erection of bungalow.
 - Construction of farm access.
- Lighthorne* ... Enlargement of garage.
- Erection of village hall.
 - Use of site for erection of lock-up shop.
 - Private garage.
 - Private garage and access.
 - Erection of lock-up shop.
 - Renewal of temporary permission—caravan.

Temporary permission—Dutch Barn
over grain drying plant.

Erection of Dutch Barn.

Renewal of temporary permission—
Caravan.

Proposed loose boxes.

Long Itchington

Erection of Dutch Barn.

Provision of lavatory basin and W.C.

Conversion of fish shop into garage.

Extension to cottage.

Use of land for storage of motor
vehicles and equipment.

Change of use—Agricultural build-
ings to use for hosiery manufacture.

Erection of Electricity Sub-Station.

Renewal of Temporary permission—
2 caravans and 1 garage.

Use of site for erection of 3 houses.

Renewal of Temporary permission—
workshop.

Napton

... Club premises.

Proposed portable bungalow for
agricultural use.

Extension to tunnel kiln building—
Storage bay.

Dutch barn.

Cowpen and Dairy.

Domestic hot water supply and W.C.

Proposed stationing of caravan.

Proposed stationing of caravan.

Extension to tunnel kiln building

Cattle Shed.

Renewal of Temporary permission—
Nissen Huts as dwelling.

Alterations and extensions to existing
house.

Extensions to existing garage and
wash house.

Renewal of Temporary permission—
caravan.

Priors Hardwick

Use of double deck bus as poultry
house.

Conversion of wash house into garage
with new access.

<i>Priors Marston</i>	...	Revised siting of Hall—Drainage. Garage, Store and Coal shed. Use of site for erection of house. Use of site for stationing caravan. Alterations to cottages. Proposed sanitary fittings and additional drainage to 4 houses. Proposed site for caravan. Site for stationing caravan. Alterations to outbuildings to form garage, also new drive. Bathroom, W.C.s, Pantry, etc. Wagon Store.
<i>Radbourne</i>	...	Proposed Dutch Barn.
<i>Radway</i>	...	Bus Shelter. Additional W.C.
<i>Ratley</i>	...	Use of site for bungalow. Alterations to cottage.
<i>Shotteswell</i>	...	New Cloakroom. Conversion of building into garage and new access.
<i>Shuckburgh</i>	...	Installation of hot water system and drainage. Reconstruction of Portico. New drainage system. Alterations and Conversion.
<i>Southam</i>	...	Use of site for house. Change of use—shop to surgery. Dutch Barn. New lavatory. Use of building for light engineering. 2 pre-fabricated timber garages. Police Station, Inspector's house, garage block and outbuildings. 3 roomed surgery unit. Proposed new lavatory. Private garage. Conservatory. Additional lavatory. Formation of vehicular access. Use of half garden as hard open-standing. Conversion—workshop into flat.

		Alterations to Public House and adjoining fish shop.
		Drainage to Cowstall.
		Lean-to building.
		Renewal of Temporary permission—store shed.
		Alterations to Hotel Buildings.
		Retention of Nissen Hut as bedroom.
		Use of garage as store shed.
		Temporary permission—Milking Parlour and Dairy.
		Change of use—living accommodation to office.
		Change of use—office to Printing and Typewriter repair shop.
		Proposed bungalow.
		Change of use—shop and dwelling house to office and dwelling house.
		Part residence as offices.
		Garage and outbuildings.
		Garage.
		Motor cycle combination garage.
		Private garage.
		Enlargement of window for display purposes.
		Private garage.
		Renewal of Temporary permission—Caravan.
		Petrol filling station and Cafe.
		Renewal of Temporary permission—Caravan.
<i>Stockton</i>	...	Assembly Hall as addition to Chapel.
		Portable wooden building.
		4 bay Dutch Barn.
		Use of site for erection of dwelling house.
		Hall and Sunday School.
		Construction of Access.
		Formation of new vehicular Access.
<i>Ufton</i>	...	Car Park at Public House.
		Improvements to Village Hall.
		Bus Shelter.
<i>Warmington</i>	...	Renewal of Temporary permission—Caravan.
		Deep Litter Fowl Pen.

	Temporary permission—Caravan.
	Temporary permission—Caravan.
	Retention of Nissen Hut for garage business.
	Shed.
	Closets.
	Site for bungalow.
<i>Wormleighton</i> ...	Grain drying plant.
	Conversion of outhouses to living accommodation.
	Conversion—3 cottages to 2 and inclusion of bathrooms.
	Bus shelter.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of infected bedding, etc., disinfected or destroyed—		
2 mattresses	2 pillows	
3 sheets	1 bolster	
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious disease	...	9
Schools disinfected after cases of infectious disease	...	Nil

Once again I have to offer my thanks for the courtesy and assistance always received from the members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health and the other officers of the Council. And finally I would wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to all members of my staff, the two foremen and all outside employees, for their loyal and conscientious assistance.

S. C. WHITEHEAD,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR, 1954.

	Inspections and observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances abated after notice.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	349	25	13	13
Overcrowding	5	—	—	—
Verminous Houses	14	—	1	1
Dust nuisance	19	—	—	—
Milkshops and Dairies	13	—	—	—
Bakehouses	22	—	—	—
Slaughterhouse (now closed) ...	35	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	47	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	22	—	1	1
Closets	41	—	2	2
Ice Cream	22	—	—	—
House drainage	198	—	12	10
Pigsties	20	—	4	3
Smoke nuisance	19	—	—	—
Factories and workshops ...	24	—	—	—
Food Shops	112	—	—	—
Rat and Mice Infestations ...	194	—	2	2
Dustbins	23	—	—	—
Outworkers premises	3	—	—	—
Sheds, Garages, etc.	44	—	—	—
Cafes	23	—	—	—
Mobile food vans	38	—	—	—
Infectious diseases	43	—	—	—
Unsound Food	43	—	—	—
Water supply	334	—	3	2
Complaints	399	—	—	—
Caravans	97	—	—	—
Canteens	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	2206	25	38	34

TABLE II.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1954 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1947	11,380	252	22.1	12	48	131	11.5
1948	11,940	233	19.5	2	8	125	10.5
1949	11,990	226	19.0	11	49	135	11.3
1950	12,870	214	16.6	7	32.7	158	12.3
1951	12,700	226	17.8	6	26.5	138	10.9
1952	12,550	202	16.1	3	29.7	121	9.6
1953	13,050	254	19.4	8	31.5	123	9.4
1954	13,310	223	16.7	11	49.3	141	10.6

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1954.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1954.

(Provisional Figures).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.						
		Live Births	Still Births to Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.	
England and Wales	...	15.2	23.4	11.3	25.5	

TABLE III.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1954.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox									
Plague									
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)									
Erysipelas									
Scarlet Fever	18		5	12			1		
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever									
Pneumonia	8			2		1	1	4	
Malaria									
Dysentery									
Puerperal Pyrexia	1				1				
Meningococcal Infection									
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)									
Whooping Cough	14		6	7		1			
Encephalitis Lethargica									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
Measles	8	1	1	6					
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17				8	6	1	2	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3			1	2				
Food Poisoning									
Totals	69	1	12	28	11	8	3	6	

TABLE IV.
SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1954

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease... ..	—	1
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	9
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	—
16 Diabetes	—	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	9	11
18 Coronary disease, angina	6	7
19 Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
20 Other heart disease	13	14
21 Other circulatory disease	1	1
22 Influenza	—	—
23 Pneumonia	5	5
24 Bronchitis... ..	1	2
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	—	—
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	1	1
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	8
33 Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
34 All other accidents	1	—
35 Suicide	3	—
36 Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	74	67

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE V.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1954.

I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	415
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	563
2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	53
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil

II. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	29
--	--	----

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.*A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	by owners	Nil
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	by owners	1
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 4 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respects of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

IV. A.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | } Information not available. |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | |

B.

Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year

C.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | } Information not available. |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | |

D.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| (1) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | } Information not available. |
| | |

